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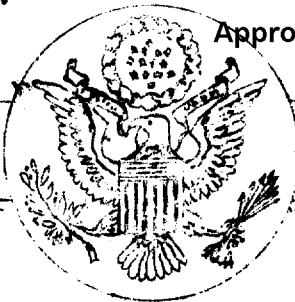
The attached material is sent for your retention in the belief that it may be of interest:

1. Daily Reviews of the Syrian Press.
2. Summary of the Beirut Armenian Press.

These attachments are of a free classification.

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# AMERICAN LEGATION

= DAMASCUS =

## Daily Review of the Syrian Press

The following is an informal digest of material from the local Arabic Press, and is in no way to be considered as an official translation. It should not be quoted nor attributed to the Legation.

No. 109

( FOR STAFF USE ONLY )

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PRESS DIGEST, FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1949.  
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### NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al 'Alam,  
Al Jabal and Al Shabab.

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### DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

#### SECURITY CONFERENCE:

Alif Ba': Preparatory steps are being taken to hold a meeting between the Egyptian, Syrian, and the Lebanese authorities to conclude an agreement regarding the planning of a campaign against terrorism and crime. Chiefs of the Security Departments of these countries will represent their Governments.

#### AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY AND GREECE:

Alif Ba': Our reporter learns that the final draft of the Aviation Agreement with Greece is prepared and that the ceremony of signing the agreement will take place during the next week at the Foreign Office.

The

( Pr. Dig. 109/2 )

The Aviation Agreement with Turkey is expected to be concluded during the month of July.

ENGLISH BOOKS TO SYRIA:

Alif Ba': The American Books Exchange Center in Washington has informed the Syrian Legation there of its decision to present a considerable number of books in English to Syrian Cultural Institutions and has requested it to supply funds for shipment expenses on these books for it (the Exchange Center) has no appropriations for such a shipment.

GIFTS TO SYRIAN ARMY:

Alif Ba': A number of women of the Palestine Liberation Committee composed of wives of Syrian Army officers under the chairmanship of Madame Bahij al-Kallas visited the front and presented gifts to Syrian Army personnel stationed there.

A CROATIAN DELEGATION IN DAMASCUS:

Alif Ba': A delegation representing two million christian and Moslem Croats now refugees from their country visited Colonel Husni al-Za'im and informed him of the conditions in their country which forced their dispersement. The Colonel assured them they were welcomed in Syria and they would have treatment equal to that of Syrian citizens.

MORE STATE APPOINTMENTS:

Al Qabas: the following appointments had been decided by the Council of Ministers in its day-before-yesterday meeting (June 8, 1949):

Jamaal al-Farra has been appointed as Charge d'Affaires in Brussels.

Shawkat Mahasni, Assistant Director General of the Police.

Jamil Saliba, Secretary General of the Instruction.

CHANGE

( Pr. Dig. 109/3 )

CHANGE OF SYRIAN FLAG :

Al Ayyam: From a very reliable source our reporter learns that the Syrian flag will be changed to a red field with a white eagle flying in the center. This new flag will probably be introduced after the election of the President, and the promulgation of a new constitution.

POSSIBLE RELEASE OF WAJIH AL-HAFFAR:

Al Ayyam: The Dean of the Syndicate of Press, Nasuh Babil, and the Secretary, Wadih Sidawi called on Colonel Za'im at his office and begged him to order the release of Wajih al-Haffar, owner-editor of suppressed paper Al-Insha' who has been in jail since the Coup d'Etat. The Colonel informed them of Haffar's readiness in a letter he had presented to the military authorities to contribute 25,000 Pounds Syrian to the Syrian Army on its day, June 15, and that he, the Colonel, will consider the matter of his release.

ALEPPO DIRECTOR OF PRESS DEPARTMENT:

Al Ayyam: Mr. Faris Murad has been appointed as Director of Propaganda, Publication, and Broadcasting in the city of Aleppo.

NEW BUILDING FOR FOREIGN OFFICE:

Al Nasr: Press reporter informs that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has rented Adil Shaykh al-Ard's three-storey building at Muhagireen for LS. 25,000 yearly for its new premises.

TRIAL OF A SPY:

Al Nasr: The Criminal Court looked yesterday into the case of a Palestinian youth from Samakh, who was caught in the Himma area and who admitted he was gathering information about the Syrian army in that area for transmission to an agent of the Jews. The Court pronounced a sentence of 3 years hard labor and three further years of exile.

COMPENSATION TO SUPPRESSED PAPERS:

Al Nasr: In accordance with legislative decree No. 112, owners of suppressed papers will be paid the compensation assessed by the committee specially formed for this purpose,

( Pr. Dig. 109/4 )

provided the total amount of compensation to be paid to all suppressed papers does not exceed LS. 250,000.

The legislative decree also stipulates that further concessions for publishing a paper or magazine will not be given until the issuance of the new Press Law which defines the qualifications of editors and publishers. Further, nor owner of a suppressed paper who gets compensation will be licensed to publish a new paper even after the promulgation of the Press Law.

#### ARAB AFFAIRS

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##### A SHIFT IN AMERICAN ATTITUDE:

Alif Ba': According to reports from Washington the Assistant Secretary of State refused to reply to a question regarding news published by the American press to the effect that the Government of the United States has ordered Israel to accept unconditionally the repatriation of a great number of Arab refugees. Nevertheless, the Assistant Secretary of State said that the US Government is much concerned over the maintenance of peace in the Middle East and that it will spare no effort to effect a rapprochement between the Arabs and the Jews.

There is every indication that as far as the Arabs are concerned a marked shift in the American attitude is taking place and that the American people are beginning to realize that the Arabs have a right to return to their homes and properties. The same sources add that the American Government is likely to lift the embargo on shipment of arms to Middle Eastern countries.

##### WITHDRAWAL FROM MISHMAR HAY YARDEN:

Al Ayyam: From Lake Success sources comes the information that the new proposal of Acting mediator Dr. Bunche which was carried by General Riley suggests the Syrian Army's withdrawal from Mishmar Hayarden which is to become a neutral land.

##### AMERICAN PRESSURE ON ISRAEL:

Al Nasr: In reply to recent press rumors to the effect that the American Government had been applying pressure on

Israel

( Pr. Dig. 109/5 )

Israel as regards the refugee and the frontier questions, the Israeli Foreign Office issued an official communique admitting "that the Governments of the United States and Israel have exchanged views about the talks presently conducted at Lausanne." The communique denied that the United States Government had threatened imposition of economic and political sanctions.

On the other hand, the State Department issued a communique in Washington containing the above information and urging that the Israelis accept the internationalization of Jerusalem repatriation of refugees and their compensation.

#### AMERICANS START TO FEEL DANGER OF ISRAEL:

Al Nasr: Under glaring headlines on the first page saying that "Israel Constitutes a Danger to America", this paper translates an article written by Henry Carfin, former head of the Theological School in New York. This article, the paper says, is an indication that the intellectual centers which so far have been supporting Zionism are now realising the danger emanating from it.

#### ECONOMIC AFFAIRS -----

#### MIRA LIQUIDATED:

Al Nasr: During the last two months of the new regime, Finance Minister Jabbara has succeeded in liquidating the Mira. The profits of the State from the Mira since its inception in 1943 and until May 31, 1946, amounted to more than LS. 41,000,000. However, according to this paper's correspondent, most of these profits have gone to balance the deficit incurred by the poor's bread program and the remaining amount of LS.7,000,000 have been the net profit of Syria.

#### LIFTING OF EXPORT RESTRICTIONS:

Alif Ba: All restrictions on the export of cotton to Lebanon has been lifted in return for Lebanese action of lifting restrictions on the export to Syria of yarns, iron and cement.

#### SUBJUGATION

( Pr. Dig. 109/6 )

SUBJUGATION OF FOREIGN AND ARAB COMPANIES:

Alif Ba': The statistics of Arab and Foreign Insurance Companies subject to the Legislative Decree providing for regulation of operation of such concerns is given as 130 foreign Insurance Companies and 95 Foreign and Arab.

This new Legislative decree makes necessary the registration of these Companies within the next six months, and the opening of main offices in Syria.

A spokesman of the Inspectorate General of Concessionary Companies stated that two more laws are prepared regarding the regulations of Corporations and limited companies. The promulgation of these two laws are expected shortly.

CLOTH MERCHANTS' COMPLAINTS:

Al Ayyam: Complaining against the income tax requested for the years 1943-1948 imposed by the Ministry of Finance, and begging their exemption from this tax the small-cloth merchants have submitted petitions to Colonel Husni al-Za'im, to the Ministry of Finance and to the Ministry of Foreign affairs. They express their inability to meet these requirement in view of the present stagnation in the market and the drop of 50% in prices of cloth caused by excess imports of such commodities.

A COMPROMISE TO RARE CURRENCY INFRACTIONS:

Al Ayyam: In accordance with Decree No. 355 of the Ministry of Finance which gave the merchants one month's notice to refund the compromise payments to the Exchange Office, the Director of this Office has requested all courts dealing in the infractions of the merchants to postpone their verdicts until the expiration of the delay. According to the compromise solution the total sum of rare currency owned to the exchange office is 1 million dollars and 600,000 Sterling pounds, being only 10% of the total requirement.

Only 20% of the debtor merchants have refunded their debts to the Exchange Office.

FURTHER REDUCTION IN RENTS URGED:

Al Ayyam: An open letter addressed to Colonel Za'im by a number of house-tenants petitions a reduction of 50% on

rents

( Pr. Dig. 109/7 )

rents in view of the present economic crisis which the country is suffering.

SALE OF WHEAT TO REFUGEES:

Al Ayyam: Minister of Finance Hasan Jabbara has approved the sale of 2,600 Tons of wheat to the Arab Refugees Institution at 170 Pounds Syrian per 100-kilo sacs.

EXCEPTIONAL INCOME TAXES:

Al Alam: This Paper published today the following outlines of the new Legislative Decree regarding exceptional tax on exorbitant profits accumulated during World War II and earned from commercial and industrial operations effected in Syria.

Article 1. An exceptional tax on exorbitant profits realized in Syria during the period 1. 1. 1940 to 12. 31. 1948 and earned from commercial operations is hereby created.

Article 2. Net yearly profits exceeding 20,000 Syrian Pounds are subject to this Tax.

Article 3. Persons subject to this Tax, real or moral, are divided into two categories:

- a. Those subject on basis of real profits, and
- b. Those subject on basis of established profits.

Article 5. Tax due on Category (a) yearly profits is fixed as follows:

10% on profits exceeding 20,000 to 100,000

15% on profits from 100,000 to 150,000

20% on profits exceeding 150,000

Article 10. The total amount of exceptional tax which should be collected is 7,500,000 Syrian Pounds.

Article 20: The tax will be collected on six equal installments, the first to be collected after 30 days subsequent to the imposition and the last on December 31, 1950.

Two More Exceptional Taxes:

Today al Alam published the outlines of two more exceptional taxes which are summarised by the paper as follows:

( Fr. Dig. 109/8 )

Exceptional Tax on Profits Resulting From the Sale of Real Estates in Syria.

1. This Tax is imposed on all operations during the period 1.1.40 to 12.31.48. Schools, hospitals, orphanages, charitable and civil institutions exempted.

2. The Tax is fixed as follows:

- 10% on profits exceeding 40,000 Syrian Pounds.
- 15% on profits from 40,000 to 100,000.
- 20% on profits above 100,000.

Exceptional Tax on Foreign Trade Profits:

This tax will be determined by:

1. The amount of rare currency granted by the Exchange Office from January 1, 1940 to Dec. 31, 1948.

2. The rare currency unpaid to the Exchange Office as its share from Export from Syria and from Lebanon by Syrians living there.

3. Rare currency does not include French Francs.

4. Exempt from this Tax are:

- a. Government officials granted rare currency for travel on official mission.
- b. Government suppliers, save part of their commission.
- c. Schools, hospitals, and charitable and religious organisations.
- d. Students studying abroad.
- e. Representatives of Foreign countries.
- f. Currency granted for import of machinery and spare parts for factories..
- g. Rare currency unused and repaid to the Exchange Office.

5. The Tax is fixed as follows:

- 1. 40 piastres on each Sterling, Egyptian or Palestinian pound, or Iraqi Dinar granted or due to the Exchange Office with effect from March 14, 1947.

2. 20 piastres

( Pr. Dig. 109/9 )

2. 20 piastres on each dollar of equivalent of other rare currency granted or due with effect from March 14, 1946 (?)
6. The tax will be reduced 50% if rare currency is granted or due before March 14, 1946.
7. The records of the Exchange Office determine the amount of Tax.

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F.GH/JSS/aet.

DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY

June 9, 1949.

Noon Commentary

Alif Ba', the Damascus daily, has published an article on the decision recently taken by the Syrian Cabinet to hold a public referendum on the 25th of this month in which the electorate will be asked to elect the President of the Republic and to give their views on constitutional questions. Two days ago, legislative decree No. 111 was issued explaining the procedure to be followed in the election. According to this decree, the electorate will be called upon to answer five questions. One glance at the decree shows that it aims at the establishment of a republican government based on sure and sound foundation.

It is worth pointing out that the system of public referendum has been supported and advocated by the most distinguished authorities on law. Though legal experts are not unanimous as regards its application to thickly populated countries, they never hesitate to declare that it is the ideal method in the case of small countries. It gives the individual the opportunity to express his wish freely and without having to resort to a medium. Furthermore, it paves the way for the individual to think for himself and to feel that he is an active citizen not only in the election of his representatives, but also in the expression of his views on general political parties.

The greatest advantage of a public referendum is perhaps the direction of the people toward a free political education far removed from the artificial currents resulting from the amalgamation of groups and factious interests. It enables the individual to become a free thinker and an active participant in the development of his country.

Legislative decree No. 111 provides for the holding of the elections by secret ballot. Articles 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 confirm the freedom of the Syrian citizen in the exercise of his right to elect and to give his views on the first four questions. Drastic measures will be taken against all those who resort to methods of intimidation, bribery and corruption.

Article 5 of this decree calls for special attention. It sums up the conditions required for candidates for the Presidency in the following few words, "The Candidate must be Syrian, and not less than forty years of age."

The decree.....

- 2 -

The decree both in spirit and letter is indeed a remarkable victory for the democratic spirit in Syria. It paves the way for the establishment of a government representing the majority, if not the entire body, of the electorate. It is the most important document in the history of Syria on the rights and freedom of the individual.

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Evening Commentary

UN Secretary-General Lie's speech to the graduating class of the University of Chattanooga on the economic and political prospects of the Middle East was read as Evening Commentary from the USIS bulletin of Wednesday, June 8, 1949. Copies of same are available at USIS.

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No. 110

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

PRESS DIGEST, MONDAY, JUNE 13, 1949

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### NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al 'Alam,  
Al Jabal, al Inqilab, Al Shabab, Al Nazir,...

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### WEEK-END'S TOP NEWS.

Prominence was given by ALL PAPERS during the week-end to the following items.

- 1- Articles urging the people to contribute generously for the Army on Army Day, June 15, 1949.
- 2- Articles praising Za'im and fortelling his automatic election.
- 3- Full texts of cables sent by Syrians from various Muhafazats in support of Za'im's election.
- 4- Detailed reports on persecution of the Syrian National Party "Al Hizb al-Qawmi" by the Lebanese Government following disturbances which took place last Friday in Beirut and clashes between this Party's members and Al Kata'ib. According to the Press, the Lebanese authorities have dissolved the Party, arrested hundreds of Party leaders, and dispatched Lebanese Security Officials to Damascus to arrest Lebanese members. Leader Antun Sa'adih is however at large. Press

coverage...

(Pr.Dig. 120/1)

coverage indicates condemnation of the Lebanese Government's "unfair treatment of the Qawmiyyin"

5- Full coverage of a London report stating that the note addressed by the American Government urging Israel to be lenient on the question of Arab refugees return to their homes indicates that officials of the American State Dept. have overcome White House officials who favor the Jews.

### ARAB AFFAIRS

#### ZA'IM'S STATEMENT TO ANA:

Al Nasr: Colonel Za'im invited all cabinet ministers to visit along with him the Syrian front. All the cabinet ministers accompanied him with the exception of Foreign Minister Amir 'Adil Arslan. After a luncheon party, Qunaytra, the Chief of ANA office in Damascus approached Col. Za'im, who made the following statement:

H.E. said he hoped to surprise the world at the beginning of next year with large army, in number and in armaments, which will be dear to the nation and the pride of the country. In addition to reinforcing the army, the Colonel added, he would implement the most useful economic projects such as the irrigation system of Tal Shahab at Hawran; and irrigation networks of the Euphrates and Khabur rivers in Jazirah, Dayr al-Zor and Aleppo; drying of al-Ghab marshlands; the Latakia port project; a railway network; and the other economic projects which will guarantee the country's economic progress and make it flourish.

As to our relations with Lebanon, the Prime Minister said, we had dealt with Lebanon very frankly and submitted conditions which will guarantee the two countries' economic interests. But, if Lebanon will not agree to it but wanted to keep the Common Interests as it is now, we shall be forced to establish customs restrictions between the two countries so that each country will direct its economic affairs in the way that meets its own interests.

#### GALILLEANS URGE ANNEXATION OF DISTRICT TO SYRIA:

Al Nasr: Late last night, our reporter learned that the Palestinian refugees from the Galilee District have submitted a special memorandum to Mr. Strang demanding the annexation of their district to Syria "as nothing stands in the way

of its...

(Pr.Dig.110/4)

ZIONISTS TERRORISM:

Al Ayyam: According to a report by the UN Observers 13 Arabs attempting to return to their homes in Palestine two weeks ago near the Lebanese frontier were shot by the Jewish frontier patrols and then cut to pieces.

Our reporter further states that the UN Observers have submitted a strongly worded protest against this Jewish terrorism against unarmed Arabs.

EGYPTIAN MINISTER TO SYRIA:

Al Inqilab: The arrival of 'Abd-al-'Aziz Badr Bey, the Egyptian Minister Plenipotentiary to Syria is expected at 10:30 a.m. today. The diplomat is the first envoy appointed Minister Plenipotentiary exclusively to Syria.

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN KARACHI:

Al Inqilab: The Pakistani Government has invited the Syrian Government to the Islamic Conference to be held at Karachi in January 1950. Similar invitations were extended to the other Arab and Islamic countries in the world. It is understood that the Conference will consider, besides the Islamic affairs, the preparation of a program which will have its effect on the Palestine question.

AMERICAN GIFT TO JEWS?...

Al Nasr: Following press reports that the United States has offered a gift of military destroyers and submarines to Israel, the Syrian Foreign Office has inquired about the extent of truth in those reports from the American Legation in Damascus. The reply denied those reports, which originated from Zionist sources, and added that the American Legation in Beirut has been authorized by the State Department to publish a denial of those reports in the local press.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

AFLAQ'S APOLOGIES:

Al Nasr: Dean of the Resurrection Party Michel 'Aflaq has addressed the following letter to Colonel Husni al-Za'im (from his prison cell in Mazzah-Rv)

"This last ....

(Pr.Dig.110/5)

"This last and hard experience has taught me many lessons and called my attention to many blunders. I came to realize that we continued to follow a course which is too obsolete in an age of construction and positive work. The truth is that we were for the Coup with all our hearts since it was first staged. We still stand behind the Coup and consider it our duty to serve and support it. But the system of opposition to the Mandatory as well as the previous regime to which we are accustomed and whose effects can still be detected in our writings and activities has itself concealed our true figure and made us appear as opposing the new regime, in which we have placed our hopes and which we have decided to serve with sincerity and devotion.

"Excellency, I am fully satisfied that this age of which you are the guardian and which you are establishing holds forth the greatest hope and possibility of progress and glory for our country. If you so desire, we shall be among the architects, and if you wish that we keep neutral and quiet, we shall be willing to act accordingly.

"The group of young men affiliated in the Resurrection Party worked very hard in the past to be an example of integrity and true nationalism. The group's past justifies, Excellency, your forgiveness for what they have committed with innocent hastiness, and we assure you that behind its errors there are only pure souls and valuable qualifications for public service. The new regime is worthy to give them a chance to produce. As for myself, Excellency, I have finally chosen to withdraw for good from any political activity, since I have learned following my imprisonment, of my deficiencies which I acquired during long years of national struggle against imperialism and the previous regime. I believe that my mission is terminated, and that my course of action is not designed for a new age, and that therefore my country will not benefit from any political activity on my part.

"Excellency, you are now a father to all citizens, and therefore cannot harbor vindictive feelings against your sons. This experience has been most useful and sufficient. Give us the chance to rectify our errors and offer you proof of our loyalty and faithfulness.

June 11, 1949. Sgd....

Al Inqilab: Commenting on 'Aflaq's letter to Colonel Za'im Editor Munir al-Rayyis urges Colonel Za'im to give a chance to members of the dissolved political parties to work and produce and participate in constructive work. For the writer believes that young men joined the opposition parties only

to put...

( Pr. Dig. 110/6 )

to put an end to the exceptional state of affairs of the previous regime. The writer further urges Colonel Za'im to release all other detainees arrested on grounds of political activity in the past, especially now that the country is on the threshold of a referendum and popular election of a President, and it is essential that the youth play their part in the present regime.

#### COMMITTEES TO CONTROL ARMY CONTRIBUTIONS:

Al Nasr: It is understood that local committees have been formed in all cities and villages to collect the contributions on Army Day, which will be supervised by High Committees. Al Nasr correspondent learns that the commercial and financial institutions have prepared to contribute for the purchase of a number of airplanes, and that there will be many important and pleasant surprises which will be announced in due time.

#### THE ELECTORATE IN SYRIA:

Al Nasr: This paper's correspondent learns that there are 720,000 eligible voters in Syria not including the nomads who number 200,000 and that all of them will vote for the election of colonel Za'im to the Presidency.

#### FORMER CHIEF OF STATE IN DAMASCUS:

Al Nasr: Former Chief of State (1939-1941) Bahij al-Khatib arrived in Damascus, and rumors followed that he would be assigned to a big post, and that he had been invited to come to Damascus. The truth is that the new regime has restored liberties, and Bahij al Khatib, who has been exiled from Syria, returned to visit his friends.

#### MILITARY MISSION TO FRANCE:

Al Nasr: Members of the Military mission to France composed of Lt. Col. Manukian, Major 'Adnan al-Malki, and Captain Riyad al-Kaylani left Saturday morning for Paris via Beirut, where they will specialize in Army Command at the Military institutions.

#### COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING - Communique:

Al Ayyam: At 7:00 p.m. Saturday, June 11, 1949 the Council of Ministes held a meeting at the Government House under

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( Pr. Dig. 110/7 )

the Chairmanship of H.E. Colonel Husni al-Za'im, the Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Interior. The Council approved the appropriations made for the Bureau of Complaints, amended the classification of the Syrian Legation in Madrid, discussed the waqfs affairs and resolved a decision regarding the regulations of Chairty waqfs affairs and the abolition of tursteeship operations, approved certain discharges in the Directorate of Telephone and Telegraph, Public Works, approved of certain measures regarding the disposition of Jazireh harvests, and the creation of Directorate of Statistics Department and limiting its rights and duties. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m."

#### ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

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#### TAXES OR NO TAXES?

In connection with the three Legislative Decrees on Exceptional Taxes reported by al Alam as having been enacted, the DGPPD issued June 11 the following communique:

"Certain newspapers published draft legislative decrees on exceptional taxes. Since these draft decrees have not yet been submitted to the Council of Ministers which therefore has not taken any final decision with respect to them, the Directorate of Propaganda, Publication and Broadcasting declares that all these projects which were published in the newspapers are untrue and that the Government has not approved any one of them."

Commenting on the aforementioned communique, Editor Nasuh Babil reminds the Government that "We would not be exaggerating if we state here that those mullionaires who accumulated their fortunes a few years ago do not possess today in liquid capital one tenth or even one hundredth of their capital. Banks, financial institutions, and Government itself are aware of this fact. The present economic crisis and Government finance could not be remedied by the imposition of new taxes but by the adoption of an economic policy which would protect domestic production from foreign invasion of our markets and in the creation of other new resources. We call upon the Council of Minister, and in particular the Minister of Finance and Economy, to consider these points before taking any decision. Moreover, today's Communique should be commended for it has eliminated many misunderstandings and worries."

SYRO- LEBANESE

( Pr. Dig. 110/8)

SYRO-LEBANESE AFFAIRS:

Al Nasr: Publish d Sunday the detailed note presented by the Syrian Government to the Lebanese Government concerning Syria's viewpoint on economic relations between the two countries. Summary had been reported in Press Digest 101/8 of May 28, 1949.

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F.GH/JSS/ES/aet.

DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY

• Noon Commentary, June 10

The Arab World has not so far been very pleased with the attitude of the big powers toward it. This has been quite evident in the Palestine problem. It seems, however, that due to certain circumstances a slight change is about to take place, and the Anglo-Saxon states in particular are now contemplating a revision of their policy toward the Middle East. This is why special interest has been shown recently in the various diplomatic activities of these last few weeks.

Firstly, there is the visit to London of Khashaba Pasha, the Egyptian Foreign Minister. On his return, he had the occasion to meet in Paris Mr. Bevin who gave a luncheon party in his honor. The two statesmen discussed at length political problems concerning their respective countries. The head of the British Foreign Office expressed his ardent wish to reach a prompt settlement of all the questions confronting Great Britain and Egypt. It is also worth mentioning that Khashaba Pasha was warmly received in the French Capital by the official authorities.

The arrival in Cairo of Sir William Strang, permanent under-Secretary of the Foreign Office, has recently been announced. Sir Strang was received by H.M. King Faruq I of Egypt and the Nile Valley, by the Prime Minister and by several other Egyptian officials. Sir Strang left Egypt shortly afterwards for Transjordan and later Palestine. On his return to Amman he became indisposed and was able to continue his trip to Beirut only yesterday. On his arrival in the Lebanese Capital, he was received at the Presidency.

Another Anglo-Saxon representative, Mr. Sam Kopper, Secretary of the U.S. State Department, arrived recently in Cairo. During his short stay in Egypt he met the Egyptian Premier as well as Azzam Pasha, Sec-Gen of the Arab League. Two days ago, he arrived in Damascus where he was received by H.E. Colonel Za'im.

It seems that the presence of these two senior officials in the Middle East, indicates that England and the United States are taking a great interest in Middle Eastern affairs and that the Anglo-Saxon powers have realised in all probability the advantage arising from sincere friendship with the Arab World.

Noon Commentary, June 11  
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Since the beginning of the Palestine conflict, the Arabs have always respected the laws of human rights. The Deir-Yassin massacres organized by Zionist terrorist bands did not encourage them however to treat the enemy in the same manner. In the diplomatic field also, the Arabs have strictly abided by the United Nations decisions throughout the fighting in Palestine and since the cessation of hostilities. It is for this reason that the suspension of hostilities constituted a serious disadvantage for the Arabs.

While the Arabs were displaying good faith with complete discipline in the application of the United Nations decisions, the Jews did not lose any occasion to violate the most elementary principles of international laws. Thus the Palestinian civilian population for instance were subjected to the most terrible tortures. Hundreds of thousands of refugees were ousted from their homes at the very beginning of the Zionist aggression. These miserable refugees are now waiting for the Tel Aviv authorities to adhere to the United Nations decision ordering their repatriation.

The nooble attitude of the Arab forces strikes a contrast with the indescribable conduct of the Zionist bands. Yet, in spite of everything, the so-called state of Israel was finally admitted to the United Nations.

But today, it seems that hope and confidence in the future are being revived. World public opinion has been finally agitated. Due to the support they have been receiving from America and Europe, the Jews believed that they could continue violating international laws and disregarding the UN orders and decisions. Only two days ago, they broke the truce in a sector of the Holy City to seize demilitarized zone. At the Lausanne Conference, the Zionist delegates have spared no effort to oppose the negotiations carried on through the Conciliation Commission

Several world papers have denounced the Zionist menace to peace in the Middle East. The United States Government has sent a memorandum to the Zionist authorities in Tel Aviv in which it calls upon the Jews to adhere finally to the United Nations decisions.

Evening Commentary, June 11  
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Here is now the first of a series of talks on Arab contributions to Western culture.

The basic principles of western culture can be traced back to three main sources: the Christian element of charity, the chivalrous spirit of the Middle Ages, and, which is perhaps the most important of all, the Graeco-Roman legacy.

The Arab contributions to western culture lie chiefly in the fact that the Arabs were in the middle ages the channel through which the Graeco-Roman culture was transmitted to Europe. The Graeco-Roman culture, however, was modified and developed by the Arabs themselves. So greatly had this culture altered in external form, though not so much in real substance, that it seemed a new type of intellectual life and became a disturbing factor which diverted Christian teachings into new lines and tended to disintegrate the traditional theology of the Church, directly leading up to the Renaissance in Europe. The investigations of the Greeks in medicine, chemistry, mathematics, literary criticism, logic and philosophy, were transmitted to Europe through the medium of the Arabs. With them were also transmitted the researches carried on by the Arabs themselves in these branches of study.

In medicine, most of the works of Galen were translated into Arabic and Hippocrates was alluded to on several occasions by Arab authors. The father of Arabic medicine proper is Al Razi, who flourished from 920 to 980. In his medical pandects, he uses both Greek and Indian authorities and the introduction of these latter in subordination to the classic authorities used at Alexandria was the really important contribution made by him to the progress of this science. The defect of his work lies in its lack of order and arrangement. It is a collection of more or less separate treatises and consequently not very convenient to use. The most distinguished contributor to medical science is perhaps the celebrated philosopher Avicenna. His work is characterised by an extremely elaborate arrangement and systematisation. His book Al Qanun was used as the authoritative text-book on medicine by the European universities until the 18th centuries.

In chemistry, the Arabs studied the investigations of the Hellenistic chemists in Alexandria and made their own contributions in this science. Jabir ibn Hayyan distinguished himself

by his.....

- 4 -

by his own researches in chemistry. Many chemical treatises bear the name of Jabir and a great proportion of these are probably authentic. Mr. Berthelot, in his 3rd volume of "La Chimie au Moyen Age", has made a careful analysis of the Arabic chemists and regards the whole material capable of division into two classes, the one a reproduction of the investigations of the Greek Chemists of Alexandria, and the other as representing original investigations. Berthelot regards all this original material as due to the initiative of Jabir who thus becomes in chemistry what Aristotle was in logic. For a long time, the object in view was the transmutation of metals; but at a later period chemistry enters into closer connection with ~~quaracter~~ medical work, though never losing its metallurgical character. The possibility of transmuting elements is no longer regarded as the impossible dream which it appeared to the chemists of the 19th century. In the course of the middle ages various treatises by Jabir were translated into Latin and exercised a considerable influence in producing a western school of alchemy.

#### Noon Commentary, June 12

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On the 25th of this month, the Syrian people will be invited to decide upon a number of points which will mark a turning point in the general life of the Nation. For the first time, the Syrian people will be given the opportunity of electing themselves their own President. The elections will be by secret ballot, and be strictly controlled by special committees appointed for this purpose.

In its last issue, the Cairo weekly ~~MASSARA~~ AL YOM published an article by its special correspondent in Damascus, who was allowed an interview with Colonel Husni Za'im, the Syrian Premier.

After the announcement of the election regulations, said the Correspondent, I was granted an interview with the Syrian Premier, Colonel Za'im. In reply to my questions as regards his election programme, Colonel Za'im answered: "My election programme is quite clear. I shall do my best to implement it with the support of the Nation, and its response to every appeal for reform. My programme, said Colonel Za'im, is

based mainly.....

based mainly on two items: firstly, the strengthening of the Army to that of a modern state, since the army is the only guarantee for the safeguarding of our frontiers and prestige. With the cooperation of our sister-state, Egypt, I shall not hesitate to make the Syrian Air Force the strongest air force in the Arab East. The second item, Colonel Za'im continued, is the raising the standard of the National Economy. I shall make it my aim after the strengthening of the army to raise the standard of living of the workers and peasants. There are many economic projects which we have drafted and which will be completed within the course of the next five years.

As regards foreign policy, The Syrian Prime Minister concluded, my attitude is quite clear. I am sparing no effort towards strengthening the Arab League, and strengthening relations with all peace-and freedom loving states prepared to cooperate with us and within the United Nations Charter.

#### Evening Commentary, June 12

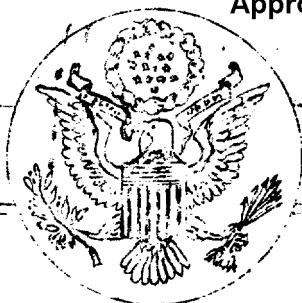
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As Commentary, the SBS announced an English translation of a dispatch by Damascus AFP correspondent, which appeared in Le Jour, Beirut daily.

The title of the Commentary is "The Syrian Press Designates H.E. Colonel Za'im as the Only Candidate for the Presidency of the Republic." It appears in Le Jours's issue of June 11.

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# AMERICAN LEGATION

= DAMASCUS =

## Daily Review of the Syrian Press

The following is an informal digest of material from the local Arabic Press, and is in no way to be considered as an official translation. It should not be quoted nor attributed to the Legation.

No. 111

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY )  
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Press Digest, Tuesday June 14, 1949.  
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### NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Inqilab, Al Qabas, Al Ayyam,  
and al Alam.

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ARAB AFFAIRS.  
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### HASHIMITES VISIT TEHERAN:

Al Nasr: King 'Abdallah of Transjordan and Regent 'Abd-al-Ilah of 'Iraq are both expected in Teheran. The latter will arrive today (June 14), while the former's arrival is not yet scheduled. While official circles in Teheran give no reason for these visits, the press believes that the visits are a preparatory step for the conclusion of a new Islamic pact formed of Iran, Turkey, Iraq, Transjordan, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

### SECOND AMERICAN NOTE TO ISRAEL:

Al Nasr: According to a Washington dispatch, an American commentator, depending on his personal knowledge, published a report that the United States Government recently sent a note to the Jews warning them that, if they continue to ignore and disobey the UN resolutions, it ( the United States)

will

( Pr. Dig. 111/2 )

will revise its attitude toward Israel. President Truman himself bears the responsibility for the note, which is said to be the most strongly-worded in the history of American diplomacy, the commentator remarked.

The note, continues the commentator, demands Jewish withdrawal from the areas not designated for them in the Partition Scheme and repatriation of the Arab refugees. Otherwise, the commentator concludes, the United States will be compelled to alter its present policy toward Israel.

#### DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

##### FREE ELECTIONS FORETOLD:

Al Nasr: On the day Colonel Za'im last visited the front, he gathered the foreign correspondents in his office at Qanaytra and transmitted to them the news that the competent official departments are preparing in book-form the facts behind the Coup d'Etat staged on March 30, 1949.

The Prime Minister then spoke to them about the projects which he will implement for the strengthening of the army and the country's economy, and added: The Country is now on the threshold of the referendum which will decide its future. The elections scheduled for June 25 will be more free than the Country has ever known before. They will be more free than any other referendum or election conducted anywhere else in the world.

The Colonel then stated he would invite foreign diplomatic missions to send observers to make sure the electorate were voting according to their own free will

##### BIOGRAPHIC DATA OF PAKISTANI MINISTER:

Alif Ba: Dr. Murayshi, the Pakistani Minister to Syria, Lebanon and Transjordan is 53 years of age and an authority on the Arabic Language. He taught Islamic religion and Arabic Language for twenty years in a Karachi University and was also a professor in Arab history and Islamic religion in the Islamic College in Lahore between the years 1928-1942, and was elected Dean of the Arab Section of Penjab College.

He is author of several books in Arab history and Islam.

RELEASE

( Pr. Dig. 11/3)

RELEASE OF 'AFLAQ:

Al Inqilab: Dean of the Arab Resurrection Party Michel 'Aflaq has been released from imprisonment.

STRANG'S MEETING WITH ZA'IM:

Al Inqilab: Accompanied by the British Minister to Syria, Sir William Strang, Permanent Under-Secretary of the British Foreign Office, called Monday, June 13, on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Amir 'Adil Arslan for an hour and half and then paid a one-hour visit to Prime Minister Colonel Husni al-Za'im.

In his capacity as Foreign Minister, Amir 'Adil Arslan is reported to have ordered a dinner party in honor of Mr. Strang at the Damascus Club.

DROP IN EXCHANGE VALUES:

Al Ayyam: While a 5% drop in the prices of rare currencies has been noted on the market, a considerable increase in the difference between Syrian and Lebanese currencies has recently been registered. The difference has gone up to 80 Pounds Syrian for each 1,000 Pounds. With the exception of the price of Samnah which has gone up following permission to export to Lebanon, prices of all commodities are dropping.

SA'ADIH IN DAMASCUS:

Al Qabas: The special correspondent of this paper reports that the Leader of the Syrian Nationalist Party ('Hizb al-Suri al-Qawmi') Antun Sa'adih, has taken refuge in the house of one of his party members in Damascus thus escaping arrest by the Lebanese authorities.

AGRICULTURAL MISSIONS TO AMERICA:

Alif Ba': The Ministry of Agriculture has decided to send a mission of 20 AUB Graduates to pursue agricultural courses in American Agricultural Institutions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is requested to negotiate with the American authorities on the possibility of students benefiting from Congressional Act No. 402.

NEW GOVERNMENT HOUSES:

Al Nasr: The Ministry of Public Works and Communications has announced the following communique:

It has come to the notice of the Ministry of Public  
Works

(Pr. Dig. 11/4)

Works and Communications that the Government is paying exorbitant rent for housing its various departments. Since the said Ministry has planned to build a new Government House and houses for the various ministries, it has asked all Government Departments to rent their premises on yearly basis.

On the other hand, the same Ministry is striving for the expropriation or construction of buildings for official receptions and for the housing of the Chief of State and the Prime Minister, as is customary in more advanced countries.

HAFFAR RELEASED:

Al Nassr: Owner-editor of suppressed Al Insha Wajih al-Haffar has been released and sent home, after having promised to contribute an amount of LS. 25,000 on Army Day.

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MOVIES THIS WEEK

|                |                      |                                    |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>DUNIA</u>   | JUIF SEZE            | German Speaking Film on Jews.      |
| <u>DIMASHQ</u> | THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE | Georges Brent and Dorothy McGuide. |

DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY

June 13, 1949.

Noon Commentary  
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THE ARAB WORLD MOVES AHEAD

The Cultural Committee of the Arab League has just recommended to Government members of the League the creation in the schools of Law a special course of study of the constitutions and the economic systems of the Arab countries.

This same Committee has also recommended to the member states that conferences on architecture, medicine, history, art, and sociology be regularly held in the various countries of the Arab world, so that every state may have a complete apprehension of Arab civilization.

In order to encourage tourists, the Lebanese Government has authorized the organization of several contests including beauty contests, tournaments, and bridge in particular. A programme will be established for this purpose during the vacationing season. The best international players will be invited to participate.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs intends to finance a propaganda campaign and to allocate a subsidy of 150,000 pounds for that purpose. This campaign will be launched against the active propaganda led by Zionists against Egypt in Europe but notably in America.

Three Egyptian engineers have arrived in Jedda upon the request of the Saudi Arabian government to install a radio broadcasting station there.

The Syrian Ministry of Education, beginning next year, will create in the Syrian provinces special schools where children of all ages will receive a general education in agricultural subjects.

The Egyptian Ministry of Education has decided to send abroad at the beginning of the next academic year 100 scholars to specialize in different branches of culture

which include.....

- 2 -

which include the Arts, Literature, Industry and Commerce. 47 scholars will be sent to Great Britain, 36 to the United States, 9 to France, 3 to Sweden, 5 to Switzerland, 2 to Holland, one to Canada, one to Australia, one to Norway, and one to Italy. Four scholars will also be sent abroad to specialize in different branches of cinematography. This decision has just been taken by the Egyptian Ministry of Education to raise the standard of film production.

In Baghdad, a group of 10 scholars will be sent to Italy by the Iraqi Ministry of Education to specialize in the Fine Arts.

This same Ministry has also decided to support young authors financially so that they may have their works edited and published.

#### Evening Commentary

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In our last talk on this subject, we gave a short review of Arab contributions to western culture in medicine and chemistry. This evening our talk is devoted to Arab philosophical contributions and investigations. Certain schools are inclined to treat philosophy as coming to an end with Aristotle and beginning again with Descartes after a long blank during which there lived and worked some degenerate descendants of the ancients who hardly need consideration. But this position violates the primary canon of history which postulates that all life is continuous, the life of the social community as well as the physical life of an organic body. What is called the 'middle ages' had an important place in the evolution of western culture, and owed much to the transmitted culture which came round from Hellenism through Arabic media. But this culture came as a living thing with an unbroken and continuous development from what is called "the classic age."

The Greek philosophical heritage underwent various modifications and developments. Three main factors influenced and adapted it to the new circumstances. Firstly, the comprehensive and centralised imperial systems which succeeded

the city states.....

- 3 -

the city states of the Greeks. After the decline of the Greek city states, there arose and fell mighty empires: the empire of Alexander, the Roman Empire, the Ptolemies, the Seljuks, the Persians, and finally the Arabs. These imperial systems usually demanded a dutiful, and in certain cases, a subservient citizen. The conditions prevailing in these empires were quite different from those of the Greek city states in which the citizen was an active participant in the operation of the government of his city.

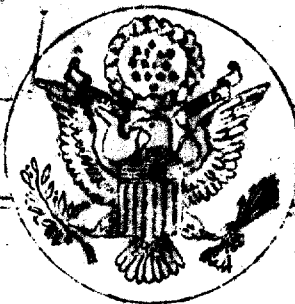
Secondly, the influence of Neoplatonism which tried to effect a combination between the teachings of Aristotle and Plato. The Neoplatonists were obliged to be eclectic so as to adapt the Greek philosophy to the conditions of their age and to the teachings of Christianity.

Thirdly, the necessity felt by the Islamic philosophers to adapt Greek philosophy to the teachings of Islam. With the exception of Ibn Rushd, the Islamic philosophers were the pioneers of the philosophers who founded the scholastic school in Europe.

The tenth century A.D. was the golden period of Arabic translators. The Abbasid Caliph, Al Mamun, established a special academy in Baghdad called Bayt-al-Hikma for the translation of Greek philosophical works. A large number of the translations were made directly from Greek by men who had studied the language in Alexandria and Greece. Most of the works of Aristotle and a considerable part of Plato's works were translated and commented on. The whole of the logical 'Organon' was accessible in Arabic and in these were included the 'Rhetorics' and the 'Poetics' as well as 'Porphyry's Isagoge'. Of the works on natural science, they had the 'physics', 'de coelo', 'de generatione et corruptione' and 'de sensu'. On mental and moral sciences they had the 'metaphysics', the 'Nichomachean Ethics' and the 'Magna Moralia.' The 'Republic' and 'Laws' by Plato were also translated into Arabic. All these translations together with the comments and researches made by the Arabs themselves were transmitted to Europe largely through the Arabs in Spain.

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# AMERICAN LEGATION

= DAMASCUS =

## Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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**No. 112**

**( FOR STAFF USE ONLY )**

**Press Digest, Wednesday June 15, 1949.**

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### NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Naar, Al Inqilab, Al Kabas, Al Ayyam,  
al Alam, Al Jabal and Al-Shabab.

### ARAB AFFAIRS

### SYRO-IRAQI CRISIS.

According to Al-Inqilab's correspondent in Cairo, Ex-Iraqi Premier Muzahim al-Pajaji has failed in his mission to Cairo and is returning to Iraq today. His failure is due to the fact that his mission was not only for the purpose of eliminating tension between Iraq and Egypt but also was strongly connected with details of the plot of Nuri al-Sa'id against Syria's independence. Actually Pajaji's mission in Cairo was to urge the Egyptian Government not to recognize the plebiscite and election which will be held in Syria on the 25th of this month. However, Egypt answered that the plebiscite and election in Syria are purely internal affairs which concern Syria alone and advised Iraq not to interfere, particularly since Syria continues in a state of war with the Zionists.

All papers today denounced Nuri al-Sa'id in connection with the current reports on the concentration of 5,000 Iraqi

troops

( Pr. Dig. 112/2 )

troops on the Syro-Iraqi frontiers. The following article by Al Nasr exemplifies the general anger in and reaction of the Syrian press:

"You can fool all of the people some of the time; you can fool some of the people all of the time; but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time" the proverb says. But, H.E. Nuri Pasha Sa'id, Chief of the 'Iraqi Government, who enjoys the rank of a General and the title of Sir, tries to fool all the people all of the time. He has designated himself as the champion of the Arab cause, but his behavior reveals to the people his subservience to the foreigner for the implementation of imperialistic plans. Young 'Iraqi deputies have themselves surprised Nuri Pasha with these epithets at the 'Iraqi Parliament during foreign policy debate. Unable to defend himself, Nuri Sa'id wept, it is reported by Iraqi papers.

The Syrian Coup d'Etat has revealed the true face of Nuri Sa'id and the substance of his imperialistic designs, which are tempting but fatal. The documents published by Al Misri and mentioned by Al Nasr indicate that Nuri Sa'id is still exactly what the 'Iraqi deputies have said, and that he is more than ever keen upon the implementation of his masters imperialistic projects even over the corpses of the Syrian people.. But Nuri Sa'id has not yet realised the existence in Syria of a noble people who sacrificed their blood to achieve independence of a daring army which will defend this independence, and of a commander who is leading the people and the army to glory. Neither Nuri Sa'id nor anybody else's infringing upon the sovereignty of this country can ever be tolerated.

We are saying all this, on the occasion of inexplicable action on the part of Nuri Sa'id, which shows that not only has he mobilized his powers to serve the foreigners but also to extend assistance to the Zionist enemies of the Arabs, here is the story:

Every one is aware that the situation between Syria and the Jews is tense that the armistice talks are almost severed, and that the Jews have tried to terrorize Syria by first concentrating their forces along the Syrian front and then repeating their theatrical military movements during the armistice talks. All such attempts were frustrated by the solidarity of the army, which was ever ready to retaliate with twice the force that could be brought against them. While the Syro-Israeli situation is such, Nuri Pasha Sa'id embarks on an action which cannot be described except as high treason against Arabism and nationalism: He rallied to the help of the Zionists against Syria. Following are the

( Pr. Dig. 112/3 )

**details:**

Al Nasr correspondent at Dayr al-Zor reported that Nuri Sa'id has ordered detachments of the Iraqi army numbering not less than 5,000 soldiers to move to a position called "Al Qalm" 22 kilometers to the east of Bukamal and has stationed them there. The front lines of these detachments have actually crossed that area. Inspecting this position on the map, one realizes that this movement is not directed against the Zionists, nor is it intended to help Syria against the Zionists. It is meant to take aggressive action against Syria. So, if Nuri Pasha intends to wage a war of nerves, or to stir-up the Syrian tribes, or actually to fight Syria, he will in all these three cases, be only serving criminal Zionism and plotting with it against Syria. But Syria will not tolerate any aggressive action and will, therefore, reciprocate against this action. It will concentrate its army and be on the alert.

What a catastrophe will befall the Arab World if the two brotherly armies actually get into conflict ! By creating this state of chaos, Nuri Sa'id would have paved the way for foreigners to intervene, force their yoke upon the Arab World, and open its gates for the Zionists.

We firmly believe that the noble Iraqi people is unaware of their Premier's actions and that the disciplined and obedient Iraqi Army is unconscious of Nuri Pasha's intentions. We also believe that, when it comes to action, both the Syrian and Iraqi armies will cooperate in fighting the enemies of the Arabs on one hand and in purifying the Arab countries of such traitors like Nuri Sa'id and his companions on the other. Yea, the Iraqi Army will not shoot a bullet in the face of their Syrian brothers. Both armies will liberate Iraq from the agents of imperialism.

**AMERICAN CONCERN IN MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES:**

Alif Ba': From reliable sources in Washington comes the news that a committee composed of members of House of Representatives and Senate are preparing a draft bill to be submitted to the American Congress proposing the formation of a technical committee to tour the Middle Eastern countries and explore the possibility of exploiting natural resources with American Capital. It is reported that 44 members of the House of Representatives and 6 senators fully support this move.

**DEVELOPMENT OF TRUCE TALKS:**

Alif Ba': Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign

Affairs

( Pr. Dig. 112/4 )

affairs Amir 'Adil Arslan is said to have made the following statement on the interruption of truce talks between Syria and Israel:

Truce talks had been interrupted because of the Jewish breach of the truce in occupying Jabal Mukabbir and the Arab College in Jerusalem.

At the time this occurred truce talks were underway between Israel and Transjordan... with this as example can anyone believe that the Jews respect promises, pledges, and agreements?

In consequence of this action it is the Arabs' right to consider the present situation and take the necessary measures in order to put an end to repeated Jewish aggression, attempts, and maneuvers which are constantly under way.

Syria has taken all the necessary measures in this respect. General Riley has communicated to UN Syria's intention to break off talks together with the reasons therefore and as well as Syria's request that UN impose sanctions against the Jews.

#### SEVERANCE OF SYRO-ISRAELI TALKS:

Aliq Ba': Syria has severed its armistice talks with the Jews, having taken a lesson from Jewish truce violations in Jerusalem. Further, Syria has been discouraged from contemplating further talks following Chief delegate Etan's demands in Lausanne for the amendment of areas on the Lebanese and Egyptian frontiers in a way as to annex more areas to Israel. These demands have revealed the true intentions of the Jews toward Egypt, Lebanon, and Transjordan. Syria should therefore be careful not to conclude an agreement with Israel which will not be worth the value of the ink and paper consumed,

#### DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

#### TABBARA TO APPEAR BEFORE COURT:

Al Nasr: The decision of the Arbitration commission stipulated the trial of Tabbara and his companions before Syrian Military Tribunals.

The Military Judge-Examiner has submitted his report  
to the

( Pt. Dig. 112/5 )

to the President of the Tribunal charging Shtawi with the crime of murder and Tabbara with negligence.

DISCHARGED EMPLOYEES RECOMMENDED TO COMPANIES:

Al Inqilab: From well informed sources comes the report that employees who were discharged from Government Departments will be recommended for employment in the petroleum and other concessionary companies. The competent departments are preparing lists of those employees for this purpose.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING:

Alif Ba': The GDPPB has released the following communique:

"At 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 14, 1949, the Council of Ministers held a meeting at Government House under the chairmanship of H.E. Colonel Husni Za'im the Prime Minister during which it ratified the draft organizational decree concerning the method of paying compensation to owners of suppressed papers, ratified some draft legislative decrees relative to the affairs of plice and public security, approved the draft agreement with the Belgian Government which was prepared by the Ministry of Public Instruction for the resumption of excavations at Mudiq Castle, discussed the various political issues, and adjourned at 8 p.m."

MEMORABLE DEED:

Alif Ba': No Palestinian should be discharged from his post in the Syrian Government under the present program of dismissals; Colonel Za'im has instructed all Government departments not to resort to any dismissal of Palestinians from the Government service "except in emergency cases", thereby displaying the national spirit of the new regime, the paper remarks.

CINEMAS CONTRIBUTION TO ARMY DAY:

Alif Ba': Film Theater owners have decided to contribute all revenues from Saturday's three performances to the Army.

FANSA TO MEET AURIOL:

Alif Ba': According to Al Ayyam correspondent in Paris, Nazir Fansa, Private Secretary of Colonel Za'im, will meet President Auriol of France at 6.30 p.m. Thursday, June 16, to present to him the gift of the Syrian Premier.

( Fr. Dig. 112/6 )

OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE:

Alif Ba': According to al Sharq, June 12, 1949, the Syrian Government has agreed with the Turkish Minister Plenipotentiary on the provisions of a treaty of military nature to be concluded between the two countries immediately after the presidential elections.

The GDPPB categorically denies this report. The agreement to be signed by the two countries permits a Turkish plane to land in Damascus while on its way to Baghdad and Teheran. It is to be mentioned that no political treaty can be concluded by any one Arab country without the approval of the Arab League, the communiqué remarks.

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F.CH/JSS/ES/aet.

DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY

June 14, 1949.

Noon Commentary  
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Al Nasr, the Damascus daily, has published further details on the machine recently invented by Mr. George Khuri, a Syrian citizen who is now residing in France. This machine can spread artificial mist over a wide area. This artificial mist is the best remedy for the protection of crops and trees against frost.

The inventor of this machine, Mr. George Khuri, was born in Damascus in 1897. He has been living in Paris since 1940. In 1922, he was appointed as Chief Superintendent of Public Works in the Municipality of Damascus. In the early years of his career, he conducted several experiments aiming at the protection of crops from weather conditions. Two inventions of his were recorded under his name in 1947 and 1948.

He conducted his recent experiment at Bois de Boulogne in Paris. The machine which is carried on two iron wheels consists of a stove and cylinders for the preservation of air under high pressure. Mr. Khuri lit the stove, and the whole area was soon shrouded in a cloud of dense and whitish artificial mist. The experiment was attended by several agricultural experts and army officers interested in problems relating to military camouflage.

Mr. Khuri has told correspondents in Paris that he used in his recent experiments minerals mixed with ammoniac. He has obtained from the superintendent of the gardens of Paris certificates showing that the artificial mist of his machine is not detrimental to either the crops or animals. He has often asked his friends in Damascus to try his experiments in their farms so as to save their crops from weather conditions and insects. A French engineer who is assisting Mr. Khuri in his work, has said that farmers in America use smoke resulting from burned rubber or petrol. It has been proved, however, that this smoke is balack and detrimental to the crops. Furthermore, the machine used for providing this smoke costs 20,000 francs, and its smoke can cover an are of only one-tenth of a hectare. The machine invented by Mr. Khuri costs 50,000 francs and the artificial mist provided can cover an area of five hectares. With the

assistance of .....

- 2 -

assistance of a French expert on ultra-violet rays, Mr. Khuri has been able to provide his machine with a remedy for restoring to the trees their natural verdure.

Agricultural organizations are attaching great importance to this invention and are now studying the possibilities of its application to their crops.

#### Evening Commentary

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One of the most important statements is perhaps the declaration recently made by His Excellency, the Syrian Premier, to the Damascus correspondent of the Egyptian weekly, *AKHBAR AL YOM*. Brief though the declaration is, it is of the utmost significance. When asked about his election program, H.E. said, "My aims are clear and I will do my best to realize them. I will strengthen the army, since it is the only guarantee for the safeguarding of our frontiers and prestige. With the cooperation of our sister-state, Egypt, I will do my best to make the Syrian Air Force the strongest air force in the Arab East. I will work for the improvement of the National Economy and after the strengthening of the army I will devote my efforts to the raising of the standards of the workers and peasants. There are several economic projects which we have prepared and which will be materialised within the course of the next five years. As regards foreign policy, my attitude is quite clear. I shall spare no effort toward strengthening the Arab League and strengthening our relations with all peace and freedom loving states which are willing to cooperate with us within the framework of the United Nations Charter."

This brief declaration demands special consideration. The necessity for a powerful army is strongly felt in Syria. For it is the mainstay of the country's independence. Its strength will dispel apprehensions of the future and will inspire the people with confidence and with a feeling of security. In an atmosphere of confidence and security, there undoubtedly flourishes peace, prosperity, productivity and stable economic conditions. Once the people are secure against external threats, they can wholeheartedly devote their efforts to internal developments.

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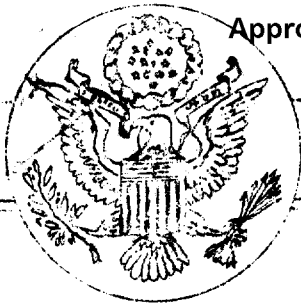
In his economic program, the Syrian Premier will pay special attention to the conditions of the workers and peasants who are the main bulwark of the nation's economy. He will improve the standards of those hard working sections of the population. There shall be no room for exploitation nor for destructive propaganda which usually utilises the unstable and precarious conditions of the masses. Economic projects have already been laid down and they will be materialised within five years, a short interval indeed in the history of a nation aiming at progress and development.

As regards relations with the Arab States, he has supported and will continue to support the principles of the Arab League.

His foreign policy is quite clear and leaves no ambiguity. Syria desires to live in peace and security and if she wants to strengthen her army, it is only because she wants to support the cause of peace and to stand against ambitious designs. She is willing to cooperate with freedom and peace-loving nations on a basis of equal footing. Syria aims at the establishment of peace and justice and she is ready to give a hand to every nation working on the same bases. Peace and justice must be complementary to each other. They are indivisible, and the realisation of justice is the only means for the realization of peace.

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# AMERICAN LEGATION

= DAMASCUS =

## Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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No. 113

( FOR STAFF USE ONLY )

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### 'PAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Inqilab, Al Qabas, Al Ayyam,  
Al 'Alam, Al J abal, and Al Shabab.

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### ARAB AFFAIRS

#### ZA'IM'S PRESS STATEMENT:

Al Inqilab: H.E. Prime Minister Colonel Za'im invited all newsmen and foreign correspondents to his office at the Ministry of Defense and made the following statement to them in presence of Dr. Ashrafiyya, the Dir. Gen. of Propaganda, Publication and Broadcasting:

The Prime Minister opened his address by mentioning the war of nerves which Nuri Sa'id Pasha is attempting to wage against Syria, and 'Iraqi Government had requested the British and American Ambassadors at Baghdad to convince their Governments not to recognize the "measures" presently going on in Syria, namely, the referendum and presidential election.

The Prime Minister then stated that he had summoned to his office the British, American and French Ministers Plenipotentiary in Damas cus and notified them that the action taken by the Government, impudent intervention in the internal affairs of the independent republic of Syria, bearing in mind that the Anglo-Iraqi treaty is detrimental

to....

to the independence of Iraq. Syria, added Col.Za'im, is not on the way to take "measures" as Nuri Sa'id said, but to hold a referendum and election.

Colonel Za'im also stated that he had informed the three Ministers Plenipotentiary that the Syrian Government has taken the necessary precautions against any foreign intervention in its internal affairs.

Colonel Za'im then declared that the Syrian Government is determined to extinguish any movement which is prejudicial to the interests of the Syrian people, and paid tribute to the Governments of Egypt, Sa'udi Arabia for their condemnation of the Iraqi attitude.

Colonel Za'im added that he had notified the British Minister that, if the Iraqi Army is forced to implement imperialistic designs, it will desert to the lines of the Syrian Army to support the high principles to which the Iraqi Army has so far been devoted.

Here, Colonel Za'im was asked about the date for the resumption of Syro-Israeli armistice talks. He replied at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, June 16, at the usual place and pointed out that General Riley had assured him that the Jews have withdrawn from the Mukabbir area in Jerusalem.

#### PRESS REACTION TO IRAQ:

Al Inqilab: Reproach and anger set the tone of editorials today about reported 'Iraqi military movements on the Syrian frontier. In a lengthy editorial, Editor Munir al-Rayyis writes inter alia:

The war of nerves being waged by Nuri Sa'id will have bad consequences, but only for him... This war will encourage the Syrian Government and people to demand a clarification of Arab policy and purification of the Arab League from imperialist germs until such time as the peoples of Iraq and Transjordan can establish constitutional regimes in their countries which will be representative of their wishes. The continuation of Arab policy on previous lines can no longer be tolerated by the Arab peoples, and that is why the Syrian people have welcomed the Coup d'Etat.

Al Nasr: Continuing its campaign against Nuri Sa'id, this paper writes:

Nuri Sa'id has been infuriated with the acceptance of the Syrian people of the endorsing of the new era on a

constitutional....

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constitutional basis. He was enraged that his imperialistic designs have failed. He was satisfied with the stationing of his army at the Syrian frontiers, but has also asked the British and American Governments not to recognize the new elections in Syria. We are sure that the two diplomats replied that the referendum and elections are internal affairs as far as Syria is concerned and cannot therefore be interfered with. Cairo reports indicate that when ex-Premier Pajaji tried to convince the Egyptian Government not to recognize the new election, he was surprised on receiving a similar reply.

Al Qabas: In a two-column article and under the above heading, editor Najib al-Rayyis requests an explanation from the Iraqi Army as to the concentration of Iraqi Army units along the Syrian frontiers and writes in part:

"We would like to tell those in Iraq who think of exerting pressure on Syria by means of the Army that they are unaware that Damascus, its rulers, army, and men, do not tolerate any threat, and that today they are of a different sort than before.

Editor Najib al-Rayyis concludes his article by a verse of poetry in the sense "But if you attack us with one spear we will retaliate with many."

#### FAILURE OF PAJAJI'S MISSION IN CAIRO:

Alif Ba': According to Baghdad Broadcasting station quoting NEBS, the mission of Muzahim Pajaji in Cairo has been a complete failure.

The station further added that Mr. Pajaji's many proposals to the Egyptian authorities were met with blank refusal. Responsible circles in Egypt are said to have accused the Iraqi Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs as responsible for the present tense situation prevailing the Arab countries.

#### ZIONISTS AMBITIONS:

Alif Ba': According to a foreign newsagency reporter in Tel Aviv, Israel's Foreign Minister Mr. Sharett spoke in the State's General Assembly along the following lines:

1. Expansion of Israel to include ten million displaced Jews.

2. Occupation

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2. Occupation of Jerusalem, considered a part of Israel.

3. Rejection of Arab refugees return to their homes in Palestine.

and consideration of all Arab properties as legal property of Zionists even if such a policy results in UN protest or US anger.

Mr. Sharett is further reported to have stated that in his opinion the United States policy would not tend to encourage the Arabs.

He further attacked the Catholic Church and described the Pope as stupid because he did not understand the real needs of Israel to monasteries and vast properties which Catholic priests dispose of in Israel. The Pope's dreams to internationalize Jerusalem shall never materialize. He also added that the bitter onslaughts launched by the Catholic press against Zionism will only increase tension, and if Catholic religion pokes its nose into such civil matters it will only expose itself to danger.

Al Nasr quotes Sharett as having stated: "It is strange strange that certain Arab States have found in America a supporter for their regional claims and even stranger is American assistance for amending the present frontiers in Palestine."

#### DAMASCUS CENTER OF ARAB ACTIVITY

AL Nasr: The Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defense witnessed important Arab activity yesterday, the most important of which were successive visits by the British and American Ministers to the Foreign Office at the latter's invitation. After their successive visits to the Foreign Office, the two diplomats proceeded to the Ministry of Defense where they successively conferred with Colonel Za'im. According to political centers in the Capital, the two diplomats discussed with the Foreign Minister and with the Prime Minister the information given by their Governments to their respective envoys in Baghdad regarding the state of affairs in Syria and the forthcoming Presidential elections. Well informed sources report that the Foreign Minister has requested the two diplomats to discontinuance of what may be called "foreign intervention" in the internal affairs of the independent Republic of Syria.

#### GALILEEANS WANT ANNEXATION TO SYRIA:

Al Nasr: This paper published today the full text of the

Memorandum

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memorandum submitted by the inhabitants of Galilee to Sir William Strang, permanent Under Secretary of the British Foreign Office, demanding the annexation of the Galilee district to Syria. It also published the text of the cable sent by the Galileans resident in Lebanon to Colonel Husni Za'im making the same demand.

#### SYRO-ISRAELI TALKS:

Al Nassr: A well informed personality has stated that the reservations put by the Syrian party as to terms and conditions for the resumption of armistice talks are no more than guarantees from the Jews not to attack Palestinian civilians who go to harvest their crops. The talks will be resumed today, Thursday, June 16. With regard to its refugee policy, the Syrian Government believes that compensations should be assessed individually and not collectively, and that the 300,000,000 dollars which America has indicated as adequate for compensation to refugees are not sufficient, since their losses amount to 5,000,000,000 Pounds.

#### ARAB UNIONISTS IN DAMASCUS:

Al Nassr: The Arab Unionist Delegation have arrived at Mazzah airport where they were received with enthusiasm, and moved to the Orient Palace. They called first at Government House where they registered their names, and proceeded to the Foreign Office where they met the Minister and discussed with him various political issues. In the evening they called on Colonel Za'im in the Ministry of Defense and dined at the Damascus Club at the invitation of the Foreign Office.

#### CONSEQUENCES OF SYRO-LEBANESE PARTNERSHIP:

Al Nassr: The difference in the value of Syrian and Lebanese Currency in commercial circles has soared up to 100 piastres in LS. 1,000. It is believed that the Syrian note submitted to the Lebanese Government on the future of economic relations between the two countries has been the main reason for this difference in value of the two currencies.

DOMESTIC

( Pr. Dig. 113/6 )

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

COCKTAILS:

Al Inqilab: The cocktail Party, given at Damascus Club yesterday by Colonel and Mrs. Giannatti, the Air Attache at the American Legation, in honor of Major and Mrs. Robert Stewart, has been one of the most delightful and elegant of parties. General Riley, personalities, Government officials, Air Force officers, and others were among the guests.

The party revealed the kindness and generosity of Colonel and Mrs. Giannatti, and the guests have spent very nice time exchanging amusing talks. The guests were bidden farewell as cordially as they were received.

ARMENIANS TO STAY HERE:

Al Nasr: The American families, residents of Syria, who were scheduled to leave for Soviet Armenia next July have expressed their preference to stay in Syria, now that conditions have improved.

COLLIERS BANNED ENTRY:

Al 'Alam: A decree has been prepared banning entry into Syria of Colliers, the American Magazine accused of publishing articles of Zionist tendency.

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DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY

June 15, 1949.

Noon Commentary

Days and weeks are elapsing, and the diplomatic meetings of Paris and of Lausanne continue to attract the attention of the world which is awaiting without hope the results of one or the other of these two conferences. Confidence in these meetings is more and more diminishing, and the commentaries of the international press are shifting to the pessimistic point of view.

In Paris, the four foreign ministers will have soon held their twentieth session, without any progress whatsoever except to make evident that their respective points of view are absolutely irreconcilable. It is thus quite probable that the present negotiations will fail to achieve any result. It might be said therefore that this conference should not have been convened since the previous conference, held for the same purpose, did not meet with success. It is always wiser to attempt to negotiate than to despair. For as long as statesmen are willing to discuss, there is no room for armed conflicts, and that is quite enough.

In Lausanne also, the different points of view do not seem to have become reconciled. Each of the parties is adhering to its positions with unshaken determination. The Arab delegates are defending the cause of justice and hope that their adversaries will finally make honourable amends and finally adhere to the United Nations decisions and resolutions.

This is why the development of events in this country are being received with complete satisfaction and pride. Within a few days, the Syrian people will be able to give freely its opinion as regards the new constitutional reforms proposed by the new Syrian Government, reforms aiming chiefly at enabling the state to lead Syria to glory and prosperity.

At the same time, the electorate will have the right to appoint the man who, by his moral character and capacity for organization, will lead the Syrian nation. The 25th of June will mark the beginning of a new era in the history of Syria.

Evening Commentary

Evening Commentary  
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The Syrian people are looking forward to the 25th of this month when the electorate will be called upon to decide on their future president. The people have already made their choice; they are now centering their hopes in the leader who has been able to reform in a short period the accumulated corruptions and vagaries of the former regime. Yesterday, he decided to resume the negotiations with the Jews whose recent aggression in the southern district of Jerusalem has proved their complete indifference to the agreements concluded with them. This firm attitude on his part will continue to be appreciated by the Arabs. In contrast with certain leaders who have been exploiting the Arab peoples to serve their ambitious designs for self-aggrandizement, H.E. the Syrian Premier, has proved that he is wholeheartedly working for the welfare of his people and for the cause of the Arabs in general.

If the people have expressed their confidence in H.E. the Syrian Premier in his capacity as reformer, statesman, and army leader, and if they have admired his noble and firm attitude toward the Arab cause, their confidence and admiration are bound to increase once they reflect on the five-year plan already laid down by H.E.'s Government. Several projects will be materialized in the course of the next five years; the exploitation of the cataract of Tal Shahab, the draining of the Ghab marshes, the construction of the Lattakia harbor, the establishment of a dam in the Euphrates, the supplying of Aleppo with water from the Euphrates and the improvement of the conditions of the tribes through education and through the betterment of agriculture. There are projects for the strengthening and reorganizing of the army on the most modern basis. A military college will be established for the training of high ranking army officers. Two schools will also be established, one for training pilots and the other for military engineers. Factories will be established for the construction and maintenance of planes. Others will be established for the manufacture of light arms and ammunition. In the sphere of agriculture there are projects for the cultivation of palms, citrons, and bananas. The government's machinery will be reorganized. Social justice and equality between the various sections of the population will be realised. In education, several scholars will be sent abroad to specialise in various branches of the arts

and sciences.

- 3 -

and sciences. Academic, agricultural, and technical education will be enlarged.

These are some of the projects of the five year plan. The people are quite confident that the leader, who has been able to revive their hopes in a period of five years, is quite capable of completing his reform campaign.

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A R A R A D

31 March

Courageous Shepherd

We read the speech of the "courageous shepherd" but did not want to comment on the explosion of this pretentious youth. We had been informed that he was inexperienced, but did not realize that it was to such a degree. His attacks were based on the anti-Christian message supposedly given over Radio Erivan, and about which noone knows anything except the editor of "Arevelk" who seems to have been the only listener. Furthermore, the message may not have come from Erivan, and if it did, it is in all probability only the personal ideas of the speaker. It may be true that this message was sent out over Radio Erivan, as there is no hypocrisy in our fatherland. We would have been very pleased with Bishop ZAREH if he had preached in the same manner on Xmas day.

2 April

It was an opportune time for Bishop ZAREH to talk about our national problems and claims. Instead of talking about our enemy and the great democratic powers who say there is no Armenian claim, the Bishop attacked our fatherland where Armenian culture is progressing.

The Kurds appreciate and praise the happy life they lead in Soviet Armenia while we talk of hatred and revenge through our Prelate. Time will bring them to their senses, but woe unto those who do not hasten to change their views immediately.

2 April

The tenth lecture of the Hinchak Party was held on March 27, with Mr. Peniamin JAMGOTCHIAN as speaker.

20 April

The cultural union of Armenians in Lebanon held its regular literary meeting on April 7. Mr. A. ATTARIAN spoke on Soviet literature, past and present.

22 April

Poet Nayrii ZARIAN from Soviet Armenia is attending the Peace Congress in Paris where he will unite his voice with the other thousands of delegates to safeguard peace in this world.

8 May

"Le Jour" writes that the repatriation of Armenians to Soviet Armenia will be resumed this summer and that three steamships are expected to arrive in Beirut soon, the first arriving in the middle of July, to transport seven thousand Armenians to Soviet Armenia. The editor of "Ararad" comments that his news is unofficial and of no value."

13 May

In order to finish the construction of the lower Zankoo canal, six hundred and fifty golkhozes, composed of both sexes, are working on the last two kilometers.

21 May

The twelfth serial lecture of the Hinchak Party took place on May 15. Comrade M. NAJARIAN spoke on Party education.

24 May

Rumanian Armenians have sent the following quantities of timber to Soviet Armenia from Rumania:

3900 cubic meters in 1946  
1500 cubic meters in 1948  
3000 cubic meters on 10 May 1949

25 May

Last week about forty persons, including fourteen Armenians, were arrested in Aleppo for Communist activities. Among these were our fellow comrades,

Guleser DEMIRJIAN  
Yervant BABOYAN  
Hrant MURADIAN  
Avedis EKMEKJIAN

who had been arrested a month and a half ago but had been released in a week's time. We are sorry that Syrian Hinchaks who have worked for Syria and its independence for the last twenty-five years have now been arrested and accused of being Communists. We hope this misunderstanding will be straightened up and that our comrades will be released.

A Z T A G

27 March

The Ramgavar press in Lebanon and elsewhere is anxious to present Armenian Communities as faithful servants of Moscow. This is very dangerous, especially at the present time, because foreigners believe that Armenians are the principle exponents of Soviet policy in the Near East.

In reality we are not very worried about this propaganda. We know that the judgment of our people is sound, and that the majority know the real situation. However, the ideas of the yellow press are taken into serious consideration by foreigners who are apt to see all Armenians in the same light.

It would be very useful to form national bodies in Lebanon composed of the sound elements. We must look at the speeches of Bishop ZAREH and Dr. A. KABAKIAN in Aleppo from this point of view.

20 April

Sarkis MAJAROV, a Russian-Armenian, was recently murdered in Istanbul. According to the Turkish paper "Tasvir", MAJAROV was anti-Communist. "Tasvir" suspects that he was murdered for political reasons. According to "Son Telegraph" (Turkish paper) MAJAROV was born in Van, Turkey but became a Russian citizen thirty years ago. The paper states that during the days of the Ottoman Empire, he belonged to the Hinchak Revolutionary Party and played a role in the Sassoon and Van events.

30 April

The Arrival of Comrade TRO

Our well-known comrade arrived by air from Egypt accompanied by Comrades Moses DER-KALUSTIAN and Hrach PAPAIZIAN. Hundreds of Tashnaks and other Armenians were present at the aerodrome to meet the great Armenian soldier. They applauded him heartily when he alighted from the plane. He was then escorted by about twenty motorcycles and more than a hundred cars to the Tashnak Club where many of his friends were waiting for him. There Comrades Aram SAHAKIAN welcomed him and TRO conveyed the hearty wishes of Comrades in the United States.

10 May

An editorial in which the editor criticizes Bishop ARDAVAZT, Prelate of Western Europe, for taking part in the so-called "Peace Congress" in Paris. The editor says that the congress was a political one and that Bishop ARDAVAZT's attendance was dangerous for Armenians. The Bishop had refused ECHMIADSIN's invitation to be present at the Orthodox clergymens' congress in Moscow, and the editor wonders if the Bishop's presence at the Peace Congress was to counteract his refusal to go to Moscow. It is felt that the Bishop's action may put his community under suspicion, regardless of the fact that the honesty and faithfulness of Armenians towards the countries where they live has often been proved.

11 May

Final elections in the Aleppo district council were held last week in Lattaqiyyah, Kessab, Azzaz-Afrin and Jazirah (Kamishliyyah as center). The elections were lawful and peaceful, and the number of voters was exceptionally high. It is understood unofficially that the following Tashnaks were elected:

Kamishliyyah District: Comrade Hrach PAPAZIAN  
 Dr. Vroyr MINASSIAN  
 Mr. Vahan DUMANIAN  
 Mr. Minas KHATCHADURIAN  
 Mr. Bedros BEDROSSIAN  
 Comrade Harutun VORPERIAN

Lattaqiyyah - Kessab: Mr. Toris BABIKIAN

Azzaz-Afrin : Yusuf SHITILIAN

17 May

The Soviet factory of lies has recently exported some goods for the enjoyment of their Communist-Ramgavar papers. One product which was immediately published under grandiose titles stated that two or three Tashnaks were recently taken by a British destroyer from Egypt to Turkey to help the Turks prepare maps of Soviet Armenia. Communist lies have even lost their ridiculousness. The Ramgavar "patriots" accompanied the chorus by adding that the Tashnak leaders who went to Turkey were TRO and IPEKIAN.

22 May

The May 22 issue of AZTAG is dedicated to the thirtieth anniversary of the Homenetmen (Armenian General Sportive Union). There are several articles giving a background sketch of the Homenetmen, an organization dedicated to physical and moral work. The Homenetmen has educated the new generation of members to be sound mentally, strong physically and nationalistic in spirit. The Homenetmen has twenty-five branches in Syria and Lebanon, with 4761 active members, sportsmen and scouts.

Z A R T O N K

13 April

Mr. Shahe GEBENLIAN, the son of our Comrade Setrak GEBENLIAN, has been nominated the representative of the British Reuter Telegraphic Agency. His predecessor has been transferred to Palestine.

14 April

During 1948 the production of meat, construction materials, lumber and other light industries and agricultural products surpassed the pre-war level. Wheat production was forty two percent greater than in 1940. The Sevanko hydro-electric station was completed during 1948.

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If We had the Will

By L. TUTUNJIAN

(Summary of Article which appeared in April 12, 13 and 14 issues)

The continuation of Armenian communities outside the Soviet Union is our most vital problem and we have the means and the ability to solve it. Our effort, however, is dependent upon our solidarity and union. We have the common grounds, common culture, history and moral and physical gifts.

Since we are outside our fatherland, we must continue our efforts -- apart from that of earning a living -- to keep ourselves good Armenians. Our past history and the memories of this generation help our effort. However, the next generation will need to work harder as their memories of the past will have decreased.

The Armenian communities outside Soviet Armenia are not a whole or a unit, but a part of the whole, a part of the unit. We are attracted by the greater mass, our fatherland. Our effort to continue therefore becomes an inner effort to unite with the whole. All our efforts and even our history would be meaningless if we did not have our fatherland. There was a time when our fatherland was condemned to death, but it rose, and is now a living thing, a reality.

The primary reason for the existence of Armenian communities outside Soviet Armenia is the safekeeping and progress of the Armenian people and the fatherland.

Unfortunately the Armenians are not united in a common effort. The Ramgavar Party is the only one which sponsors a national union, and its appeal has only resulted in hatred.

15 April

Armenia - Country of Irrigation

Erivan--The Stalin Canal and other canals in Armenia are being cleaned and made ready to irrigate the land. Five thousand more hectares of land will be irrigated this year.

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The sum of twenty point five million rubles has been allotted for the construction of a textile factory for the production of tick textiles in Leninakan. This factory will be the most important one in the Trans-Caucasus and will supply the neighboring republics. Its yearly production will be forty two point five million meters.

21 April

An advertisement is given of the film "Repatriation" which will be shown in Beirut. In it will be seen the arrival of the first caravan in Batum, the enthusiastic entry of the repatriees into Soviet Armenia and the reception given the immigrants by the inhabitants of Leninakan and Erivan.

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Soviet Armenia

Erivan--The reforestation of fifteen hundred hectares of land will be carried on this year. The trees will be planted in three rows, each one hundred and twelve kilometers long. One-third of the plants will consist of walnut trees, pear trees, apple trees and other fruit trees. The purpose of this reforestation in nine districts is to protect the fields and cities from the dry southern wind.

10 May

The paper quotes Le Jour's article on repatriation of Armenians and considers the news without foundation because no source is given and neither the Repatriation Committee nor the Armenian Government have made any declarations in this connection. The paper suggests that Armenians take this news without credence, and states that the only reliable source on repatriation is the Repatriation Committee.

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The Miracle Mathematician of Erivan

Sarkis MADINIAN, who was born in Erivan twenty years ago, was recently appointed a member of Armenia's Academy of Sciences, and granted the degree of Doctor of Science. After graduating from the University of Erivan, Sarkis went to Moscow where he completed a three-year course at the Faculty of Mathematics in one year. While there he succeeded in solving one of Stephan BONAK's unsolved mathematical problems. He received the highest mark in his

examinations and won the Mathematical Society's prize.

11 May

Five hundred thousand rubles will be spent this year for the construction of a tobacco fermentation factory in the Sevan area which will be completed in September 1949 and will produce twelve hundred tons of tobacco.

17 May

### Obstructionists at Work

The Catholicos at Antelias has announced that the blessing of the holy oil will take place on June 5. This has always been one of the greatest ceremonies of the church. In order to make this ceremony impressive and glorious, the Catholicos recently invited certain Armenians and representatives of Armenian newspapers to attend. According to Aztarar this ceremony will not be successful because the representatives of a certain organization, which has led the Armenians, were absent. We know that this organization and the Catholic weekly are doing all they can to make the ceremony a failure. As a matter of fact they are doing their best to obstruct every enterprise undertaken by the Catholicos. However, the majority of Armenians are with the Catholicos and will disappoint that organization by attending the ceremony en masse.

12 May

### They Smell a Crime

A. Arakelian

Bishop ARDAVAZT has taken part in the Paris "World Peace Congress". "Arevelk" of Aleppo has again started accusing and defaming the Armenian clergy as "Chekists" and "Agents" from France to Iran. "Arevelk" is certainly doing this service with the expectation of receiving a compensation.

It should be noted that the non-leftist British representative, the general prelate of German Catholics, the well-known Protestant, Mooltun and Rev. Emery CHAPLER of the United States, and five hundred responsible Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox clergymen from various parts of the world have taken part in the Congress. Mother Queen Elizabeth of Belgium sent her best wishes and encouraging words, and the representative of the Belgian Womens' General Union took part in the Congress. Are all these agents of Moscow?

The reason for Tashnak dissatisfaction is not Bishop ARDAVAZT's act but their hatred for peace. Peace will ruin all their hopes and dreams, their hope of a war when they, together with the Turks, will liberate Armenia. For the Tashnaks, the continuation of peace will cut the branch they are sitting on.

24 May

"Arevelk" lies about the Aleppo District Elections

According to "Arevelk" of 8 May, the elections were held in a calm, peaceful atmosphere, and the proportion of electors has been unprecedented. "Arevelk" mentions also the names of the six representatives who were elected. We are in a position to state that all these are lies. The Jazirah elections were unlawful. Furthermore, the great majority of non-Tashnak Armenians did not know about the elections so they did not participate. The only participants were the Tashnaks. A true report of the elections must come from the Vicar of QAMISHLIYYAH.

25 May

The Turkish Government's Policy toward the Armenians

Istanbul, October 5, 1949

The Armenians in Turkey are relatively well off from a national point of view. After the difficult times of 1923-1940 and the dramatic events of 1940-1945, the position of the Turkish Government has softened, especially in the last one and a half years.

The difference is very noticeable. During the pre-war period, the words of the Armenian nation, people, and community could not be printed in the Armenian press. Now the Armenians are permitted to give Armenian plays, organize student and graduate unions, and to participate in cultural, musical and artistic activities on a national level. No more curses and threats.

This policy, however, may be more dangerous than the old one of attack. It is evident that the new policy is for propaganda purposes, to show Armenians outside of Turkey how happy and contented we are. We are no longer considered doubtful elements, but faithful and dear compatriots. All this is permitted on one condition: that the Armenians hate their fatherland and those who love their fatherland. The Turks want to prove that Armenians in Soviet Armenia are not living like Armenians; they have no freedom, no independence, no religious liberty; they are hungry, miserable, and suffer. In Turkey, however, the Armenians have national, religious and economic freedom.

The recent attacks of the Turkish press have been directed against the progressive and patriotic organizations in Armenian communities, while nothing derogatory is written against the Tashnaks.

The present policy is not favorable from a national point of view, but it is not expected to result in a division of the Istanbul Armenians into two camps.

31 May

Erivan is Speaking

The Four-Year Institute of Foreign Languages was recently opened in Soviet Armenia by decision of the Council of Ministers. The Institute has a separate building, hall, offices, laboratories and other conveniences. The Institute is coeducational and now has six hundred students, eighty of whom repatriated from Lebanon, France, Egypt, Syria, Bulgaria, Rumania, Greece and other countries. There are also ten repatriated teachers who are teaching German, French and English. ~~One hundred and fifty new students will be~~ admitted in the next scholastic year. Salary and lodging for all students is guaranteed.